

FAQ's

(Updated February 2009)

Are counties required to submit a Juvenile Justice Development Plan for 2008-09?

No. Unless the legislature takes action to require counties to submit Juvenile Justice Development Plans in subsequent years, all counties complied fully with the law by submitting 2007-08 Plans.

What are eligible expenditures for Youthful Offender Block Grant funds?

Although a Juvenile Justice Development Plan is not required for 2008-09, and the Corrections Standards Authority does not have a defined oversight role at this time, the Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) provides guidance. Specifically, [WIC Section 1960](#) enumerates those programs and services the legislature intended YOBG funds to support. It is critical that counties monitor their expenditures to ensure consistency with this code section.

What is the data collection or reporting requirement for YOBG?

Unless the legislature takes further action, counties are not required to collect data or submit reports to the Corrections Standards Authority, or any other state agency, regarding Youthful Offender Block Grant expenditures or outcomes.

Are counties required to submit modified Juvenile Justice Development Plans to the Corrections Standards Authority?

For 2008-09 block grant expenditures, no. If a county still has not expended its 2007-08 block grant funds, notification and/or approval may be required. Approval is required in the event a county wants to (1) make a significant modification to the programmatic approach presented in its original Plan, or (2) make a change in budget line items that equals 10 percent or more of the total block grant amount. For minor changes that do not fall under (1) or (2) above, a letter to the Corrections Standards Authority explaining the nature and necessity of the change is all that is required.

Note that this requirement applies only to 2007-08 block grant expenditures. If your county has spent last year's funds, this section does not apply to you.

If a county does not spend its funds by the end of the fiscal year in which they were awarded, will these funds revert back to the State?

No. Pursuant to the Welfare & Institutions Code, and an opinion from the California Department of Finance, there is no requirement that the Youthful Offender Block Grant funds be reverted back to the State if they are not expended by a date certain within any fiscal year. Therefore, failure by a county to utilize the funds within a particular fiscal year will not result in funds reverting back to the state. However, YOBG funds must be spent by counties only for the purposes specified in [WIC Section 1950 et seq.](#), consistent with the legislative intent of the Youthful Offender realignment.

Are there restrictions on the amounts or percentages of YOBG funds a county can spend on administrative costs or other line item expenditures?

No. There are no guidelines for percentages of block grant funding used for administrative costs or other budgeted items. So long as the expenditures are used for the purposes intended by the legislature (see WIC 1950 et seq.) and in keeping with the intent of the Youthful Offender realignment, counties may make their own decisions with regard to how the money is utilized.

Are allocations for funding for subsequent years established?

No. The formula is outlined in [Welfare & Institutions Code Sections 1952 - 1956](#), but the Department of Finance will not calculate the final per-county amounts until the budget is enacted.

Our county wants to fund programs that are not funded by Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) grant funds, making it difficult to show coordination between JJCPA and YOBG funds for certain projects. Can YOBG funds be used on programs/services if JJCPA and YOBG funds are not coordinated?

Yes. As outlined in law, the purpose of the Youthful Offender Block Grant is to enhance the capacity of local communities to implement an effective continuum of response to juvenile crime and delinquency. Allocations from the Youthful Offender Block Grant Fund must be used to enhance the capacity of county probation, mental health, drug and alcohol, and other county departments to provide appropriate rehabilitative and supervision services to youthful offenders subject to Welfare & Institutions Code Sections [731.1](#), [733](#), [1766](#), and [1767.35](#). Therefore, if JJCPA funds are not used for the strategies described above, counties are allowed to expended YOBG funds for those enhancements described above. Counties are not constrained by a requirement that they link funds.